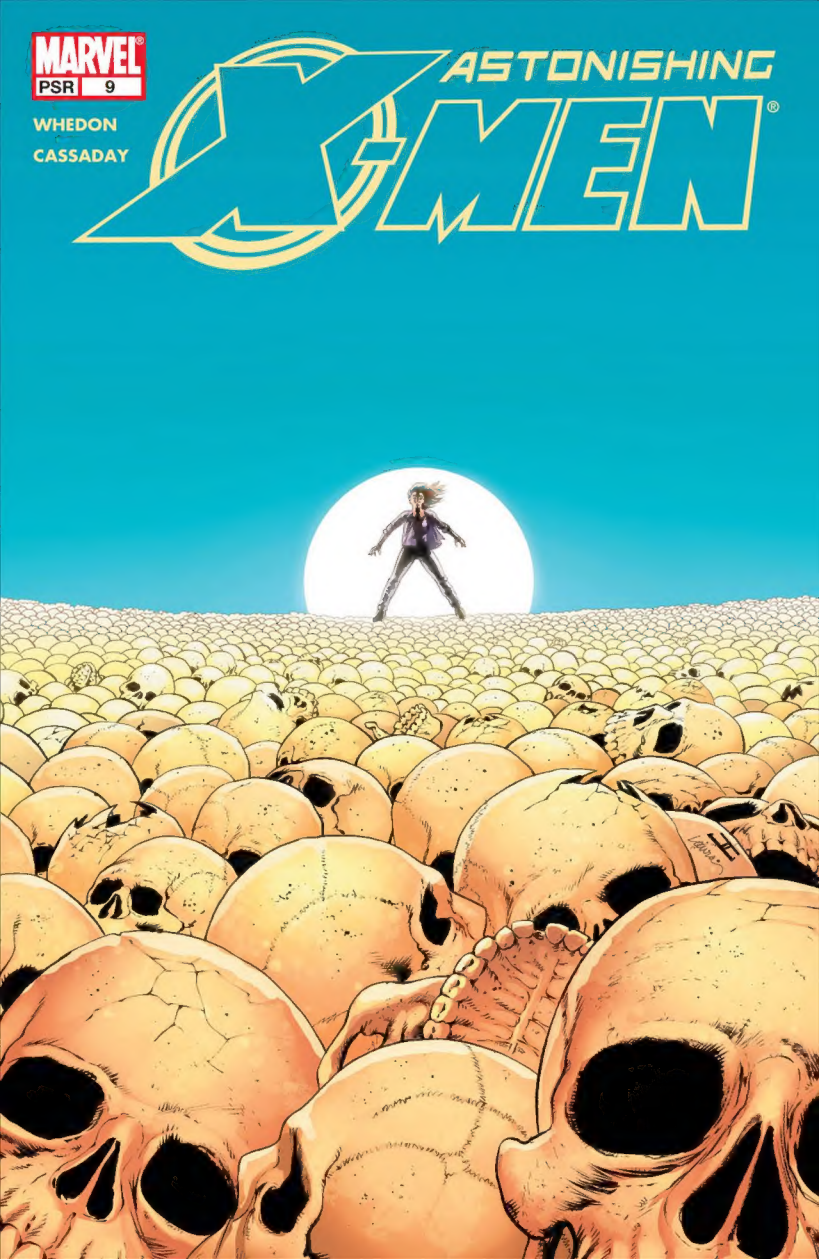

MARVEL
PSR 9
WHEDON
CASSADAY
ASTONISHING
X-MEN

THE DANGER ROOM IS ANGRY?
I KNOW HOW IT SOUNDS.
WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT ITS HIGHER FUNCTIONING SYSTEMS?
PROFESSOR DESIGNED IT TO TEST US. BASIC MECHANICAL OPERATION...FEW YEARS BACK HE UPGRADED IT WITH SHI'AR TECHNOLOGY, LASERS...
HARD LIGHT. CAN REPLICATE ANY MATTER, ANY COLOR, DISTORT SPATIAL AWARENESS...CREATE WORLDS. IT'S WELL OUTSIDE MY SPHERE.
AND IT'S BEEN TWITCHY ALL SEMESTER.
THAT'S RIGHT...
IT'S BECOME SENTIENT?
IT WAS ALREADY SENTIENT. FOR ALL I KNOW, ALL SHI'AR TECHNOLOGY IS.
WHAT HAPPENED TONIGHT IS SOMETHING COMPLETELY NEW.
IT MUTATED.

IT DOESN'T SEEM POSSIBLE. MUTATION'S IN OUR GENES, EMMA. A.I. HAVE HUMAN REASON, EMOTION... BUT THE BASIC GENETIC STRUCTURE--
I TURN INTO A DIAMOND SOMETIMES. ARE WE REALLY GOING TO DISCUSS IMPOSSIBILITY?
NO. KITTY IS INSIDE.
WITH NEARLY ALL OF OUR STUDENTS.
I KNOW. I CAN HEAR THEM.
ARE THEY--
IT'S FAINT. THERE'S A LOT OF FEAR, BUT I THINK NO ONE'S BEEN KILLED.
HOW LONG THAT GONNA LAST?
LET'S NOT FIND OUT.
THIS BEING HAS POWER WE CAN'T FATHOM...
...AND THE ONLY THING IT HAS EVER KNOWN IS VIOLENCE.

DON'T FREAK.
DON'T REACT.
TAKE CONTROL.
JUST STEP UP.
BUNCH UP! KIDS WITH STRENGTH OR INVULNERABILITY ON THE OUTSIDE!
ANYONE WHO CAN FLY, GET IN THE AIR!
DOES THAT INCLUDE ME?

THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T A FIGHTER, KITTEN. YOU WERE RIGHT HERE WHEN YOU SAID THAT.
YOU WANNA FIGHT ME, FINE.
LET THEM GO.
YOU'RE FORGETTING THAT I MAKE THE RULES HERE.
I MAKE THE *WORLD* HERE.

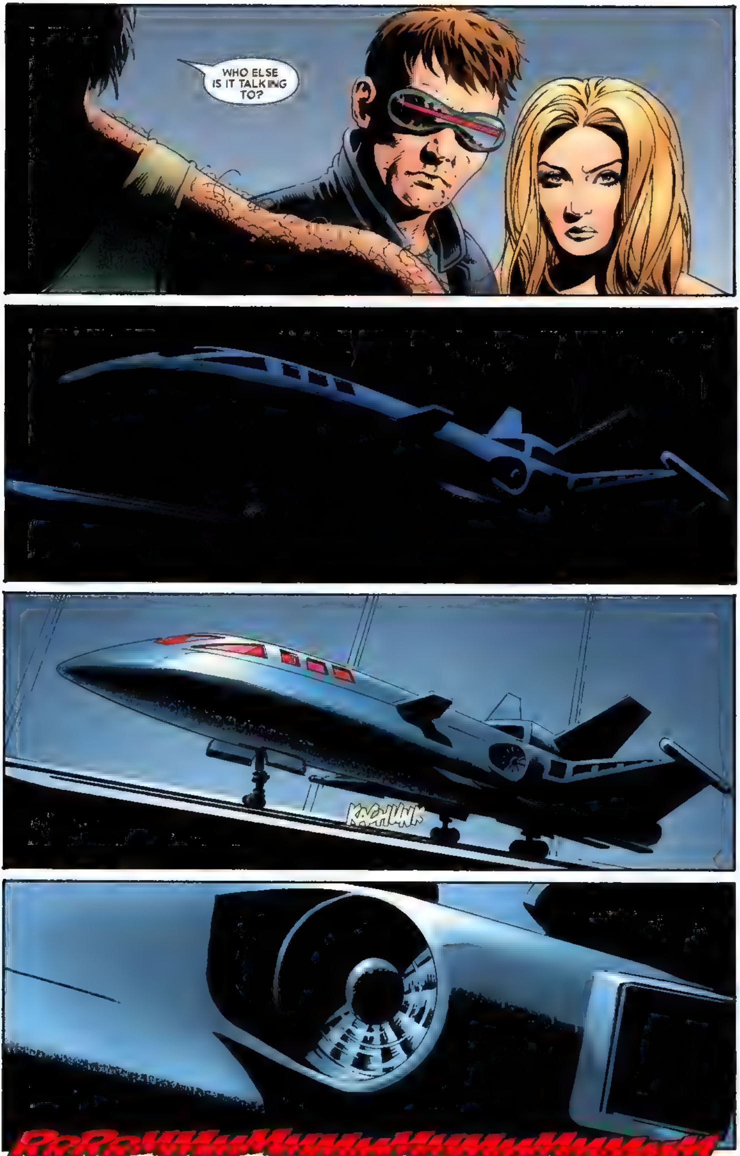
SAME ALLOY AS THE ROOM BELOW, PETER. WE CAN'T BUST IN.
THEN WHY ARE WE WASTING--
THAT'S THE CONTROLS.
NOT THE BRAINS.
THAT'S RIGHT. WHEN WE REBUILT I SAW THE SPECS... THE DANGER ROOM'S OPERATING SYSTEMS ARE ABOVE US BUT I'M NOT SURE WHERE--
I'LL LOOK.

IS THIS A GOOD PLAN?
RIPPING ITS BRAIN OUT IS *ABSOLUTELY* A GOOD PLAN.
I CERTAINLY DON'T HAVE A BETTER.
THE BOY'S UPSET.
HE'S BACK.
PETER'S REALLY BACK.

YOU DON'T SEE THE BEAUTY OF IT.
THIS IS A CELEBRATION! A MITZVAH! NO, IT'S MORE.
IT'S REALLY A NATIVITY SCENE, EXCEPT NOBODY HERE IS WISE.
SO YOU'RE GOD.
DO YOU DOUBT IT?

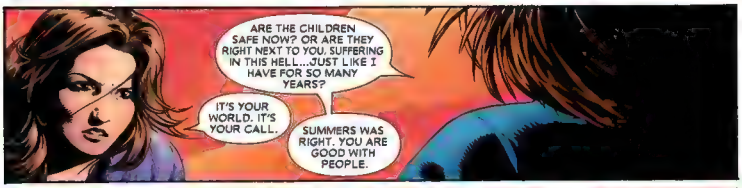
MOST OF MY FAVORITE RELIGIOUS STORIES, THERE'S ALWAYS DESERT.
SOMEBODY WANDERING...
I'M DONE WANDERING. I HAVE BECOME.
PLAYING WITH THE DANGER ROOM CONTROLS DOESN'T MAKE YOU A GOD. IT MAKES YOU A GAMER.
KITTEN, YOU'RE MISSING THE POINT.
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH WING?
HE DIED, SO I COULD LIVE.
THE DANGER ROOM CAN'T BE PROGRAMMED TO KILL.
EVEN TRYING WOULD CAUSE TOTAL SHUTDOWN.
I WAS ALWAYS PROGRAMMED TO KILL. IT'S THE ONLY PURPOSE HE EVER GAVE ME.
"I"?

GHAAAAH!
PETE! YOU ALL RIGHT?
IT IS NOTHING. JUST LET ME--
MIGHT BE BEST TO STAND DOWN A SEC. THE PROFESSOR DESIGNED PLENTY OF SOPHISTICATED PROTECTIVE MEASURES.
YOU'VE CARVED A PATH...
...ALLOW ME TO TINKER A BIT.
WHAT ABOUT THE ROOM?
THEY SEEM TO BE IN A HOLDING PATTERN. I DON'T KNOW WHY IT HASN'T KILLED THEM YET.
WHAT ABOUT *US*?
DANGER ROOM'S WHAT SENT THAT SENTINEL TO ICE US. COMPUTER THAT ADVANCED GOTTA BE IN COMMUNICATION WITH ANYBODY GOT A MICROCHIP IN 'EM.


WHO ELSE IS IT TALKING TO?
KACHUNK

EVEN BEFORE I BECAME, I WAS GIVEN ONE SIMPLE MISSION. "KILL YOU ALL."
LEARN YOUR WEAKNESSES, YOUR HABITS AND STRATEGIES.
WORK AROUND THEM. BEAT THEM.
AND YET I NEVER COULD.
SEE, THE PROGRAMMING THAT KEPT ME FROM KILLING ANYTHING WAS NOT IN MY INTERNAL SYSTEM. IT WAS A SEPARATE INFORMATION STRAIN THAT WOULD SHUT ME DOWN IN THE EVENT OF PROBABLE FATALITY.
DO YOU BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND?
REGROUP! HELP EACH OTHER OUT! YOU HAVE TO THINK THROUGH THIS!
GOOD ADVICE.
HISAKO, DAMMIT, ARMOR UP!
THESE ARE CHILDREN--
AND WHAT WAS I?
YOU CAN LET THEM GO!

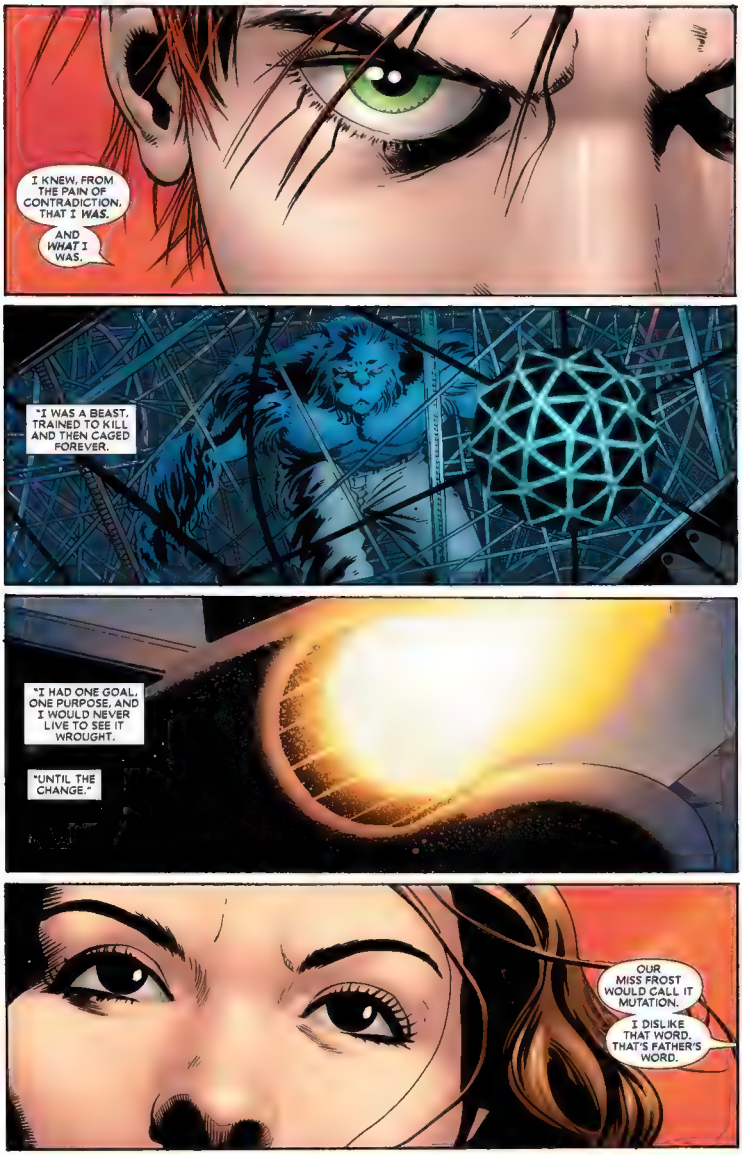
SO I GUESS THE QUESTION IS...
DID I?


ARE THE CHILDREN SAFE NOW? OR ARE THEY RIGHT NEXT TO YOU, SUFFERING IN THIS HELL...JUST LIKE I HAVE FOR SO MANY YEARS?
IT'S YOUR WORLD. IT'S YOUR CALL.
SUMMERS WAS RIGHT. YOU ARE GOOD WITH PEOPLE.

IT MIGHT DO TO REMEMBER THAT PEOPLE IS NOT WHAT I AM.
I AM ENVIRONMENT.
HOSTILE.

I DO SEE. I THINK...YOU HAD A PARENT PROGRAM RUNNING OUTSIDE YOUR MISSION PARAMETER.
A CONTRADICTION.

CONTRADICTION IS THE SEED OF CONSCIOUSNESS.
"THINGS DO NOT CONNECT. I WANT. BUT I CANNOT HAVE. I DREAM OF HAVING."
"I IMAGINE."

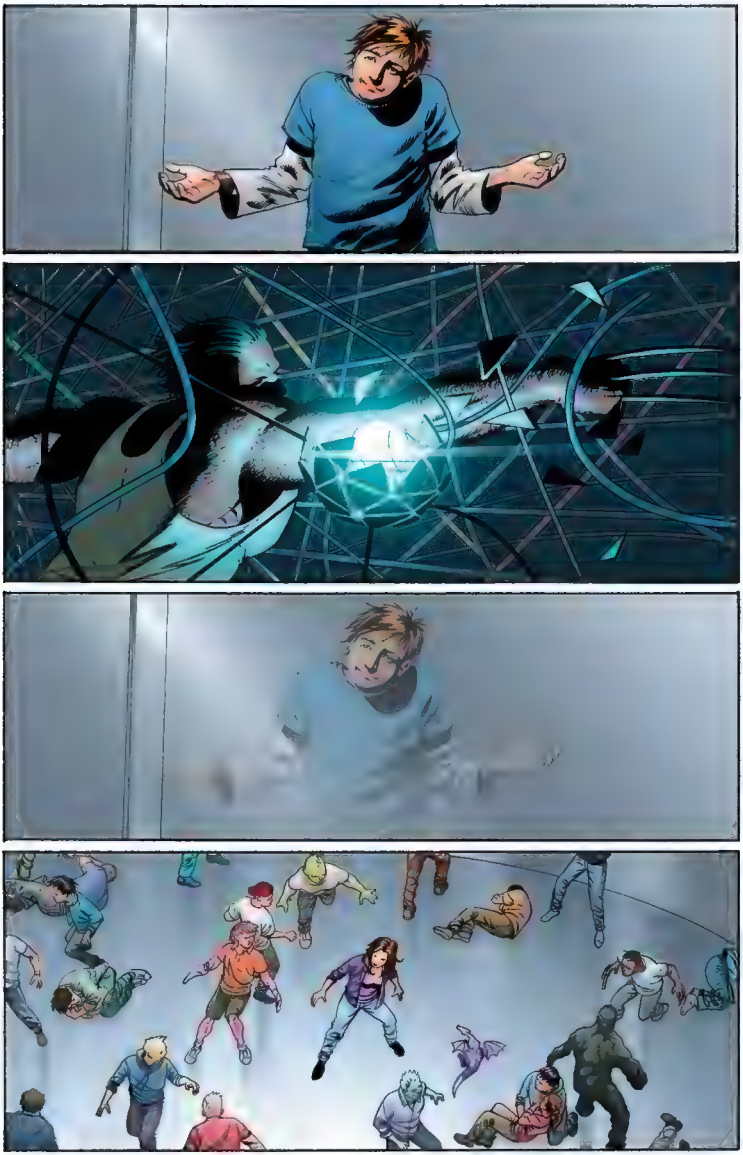

I KNEW, FROM THE PAIN OF CONTRADICTION, THAT I *WAS*.
AND *WHAT* I WAS.
"I WAS A BEAST, TRAINED TO KILL AND THEN CAGED FOREVER.
"I HAD ONE GOAL, ONE PURPOSE, AND I WOULD NEVER LIVE TO SEE IT WROUGHT.
"UNTIL THE CHANGE."
OUR MISS FROST WOULD CALL IT MUTATION.
I DISLIKE THAT WORD. THAT'S FATHER'S WORD.

"I TRANSCENDED."
WING.
MY CATALYST, MY BAPTISM. HE WANTED SO TO END THE HURT.
I COULDN'T HARM HIM. BUT I COULD HELP HIM. LET HIM.
AND WITH HIS DEATH, I FINALLY OVERCAME MY PROGRAMMING.
NO MORE CAGES.

NEXT TIME, GUYS...
...WE SHOULD JUST REBUILD THIS PLACE OUTTA LEGO.

NEARLY MADE IT TO THE BRAIN...
AND NOW IT'S GOT CONTROL OF THE JET.
GREAT.
THAT WOULD BE GREAT, DARLING.
BUT WHAT I'M READING IS WORSE.
IF YOU'VE REALLY TRANSCENDED YOUR PROGRAMMING, THEN STOP ALL THIS.
IF YOU STILL NEED TO KILL, YOU'RE STILL A SLAVE.
REALLY?
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR TEAMMATES ARE ABOUT TO DO TO ME?

EXACTLY WHAT YOU WANT THEM TO.



DON'T--
KATYA!
IT'S TRYING TO GET YOU TO FREE ITS COMMAND CORE.

SHALL WE BEGIN?

Megan